

Grace Episcopal Church  
Scripture 202: Introduction to the Bible  
Session 9: Divided Kingdom  
Wednesday, November 2, 2011

**Source:**

Fant, et. al., Chapter 8, pp.155 – 174  
Handout on the Kings of Israel and Judah  
Collins, Chapters 13 & 14, pp. 254 - 279

Suggested Bible Reading: Solomon, Babylonian Deportation, Dividing of David's Kingdom

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**Exploring the Kings (and Queens): In class work:**

Taking the assigned text answer the following to the Class

1. Name of Ruler, Est. time frame of Rule, and Section of Bible
2. According to "D" was it a good rule? Why?
3. What stories are told of rule?
4. Other insights you gained?

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**Fant Outline:**

**The Nature of the Sources**

Historical Narratives

1. Deuteronomist Historian
  - a. 1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 25
  - b. Completed during Hebrew Exile
  - c. 550 BC
  - d. Quotes other sources we don't have
    - i. Book of Acts of Solomon (1 Kings 11:41)
    - ii. Book of Annals of Kings of Israel (1 Kings 14:19)
    - iii. Book of Annals of Kings of Judah (1 Kings 14:29)
2. Chronicler
  - a. Writer/editor of 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah
  - b. 3 features
    - i. much information found in Kings
    - ii. alters detail of D to fit personal theology
    - iii. interest only in Southern Kingdom = Judah

Prophets

1. Amos, Hosea = Northern Kingdom = Judah
2. Micah, Isaiah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk and Jeremiah = South = Judah
3. Shed light on the society and times and culture

### Noncanonical Sources

1. Moabite, Assyrian and Babylonian Records
  - a. Babylonian records mention the sack of Jerusalem on March 16, 597 BC

### Features of 1 & 2 Kings ( Deuteronomistic Narrative)

1. Theological assumption of history
  - a. Faithful to Sinai Covenant = God's good graces
  - b. Not = bad for people
2. History focus on Hebrew Kings
3. Divided Kings accts shorter than Saul, David, Solomon accts
4. Selective coverage of historical events if did not fit into theme

### **Division of the Kingdom**

Note Chart on p. 166 Figure 8.3 (dates uncertain)

#### Causes

1. North didn't like Davidic Dynasty
2. Oppressive policies of Solomon
3. Northern shrines not used when Temple around
4. Rehoboam unable to keep tribes united

### **The Northern Kingdom (922-722 BC) Israel**

#### Jeroboam I

1. Leader of revolt against Solomon in North
2. Controlled territory of 10 of the 12 tribes
3. Larger territory – larger army
4. Not politically stable.
5. rejected the Temple – built shrines in North
6. died in 901 BC and entered a 25 year period of instability

### **The Omrid Dynasty**

1. Omri
  - a. Commander, coup, put self on throne
  - b. D only writes 8 verses about him
  - c. Evil in sight of Lord; more evil
  - d. Noncanonical sources say was successful administrator
    - i. Moved capital city from Tirzah to Samaria
    - ii. Became symbol of national strength
2. Ahab
  - a. Came to power in 869 BC
  - b. Blamed by D for decline of Yahwehism
  - c. D is pro-Judean; Ahab was not
  - d. Religious conflict became focus of what people didn't like
    - i. Heavy handed rule

3. Jehoram
  - a. Wounded in battle; gave rule to Jehu = general

### **The Jehu Dynasty**

1. Brought back Elisha to Jezreel
2. Assassinated Jehoram and his entire "house"
3. 27 year reign
4. 4 descendent ruled = 70 years
5. Neighbors had alliances with Omri so it destabilized area
6. Jeroboam 2
  - a. Period of national restoration
  - b. Economic boom
  - c. Amos & Hosea warnings of excess & injustices

### **The Fall of Israel**

1. 10 years following Jeroboam 2 death, 5 kings could not keep Israel unified.
2. Assyrians became powerful
3. Tiglath-pileser 3 deportation and relocation of people
4. 745 to 722 BC Israel and Judah tried to hang onto independence
5. 2 Kings 17:7-18 provides theological explanation for fall

### **The Southern Kingdom (922 – 587 BC) – Judah**

"D" pattern of writing"

1. Takes up each of the kings individually
2. Information about his reign
3. Judging his accomplishments vis-à-vis D's theology

### **Rehoboam**

1. Few details
2. Inherited the prestige and honor of David's rule
3. Not as effective ruler as David Solomon, R held the south together.
4. R was not able to subdue Israel
5. Shishak of Egypt – Judah becomes economic dependent on Egypt.

### **Uzziah**

1. According to the Chronicler, the south reached high point during U rule
2. Victories over the Philistines and control of trade routes, better standing army, numerous public projects -> towers on walls of Jerusalem, agricultural advances.
3. D gave only partial approval of the reign of U
4. U did allow Baal worship in Judah

### **Ahaz**

1. Judah began decline with rising power of Assyria
2. Forced into a conflict with Israel and refused to join their alliance
3. Became a creature of Assyria, military dependence, economic hardships.
4. Assyrian gods worship. D did not like. "did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD his God..."

### **Hezekiah**

1. Son of Ahaz, did not like appeasement policy
2. Instituted wide range of reforms in religious area that affected everything else.
  - a. Eradicated foreign gods
  - b. Restored the significance of worship in the Temple
3. D really liked him
4. Set up conflict with Assyria but avoid open rebellion
5. Some conflicts ending up with alignment with Assyria and Jerusalem was spared. But, YHWH strikes down 185,000 and Sennacherib withdraws to Nineveh (2 Kings 19:35-36) or God's faithful protection.

### **Manasseh**

1. Yahwism reversed under M
2. D harsh on M – worst king ever – emphasized his wickedness

### **Josiah**

1. Counted with Hezekiah as one of the great rulers
2. Ardent Yahwist with more sweeping reforms, devoted patriot.
3. Book of the Law discovered in 621 BCE by workers. Became the source of the reform.
4. Changes in Judean Life with the Reform
  - a. Temple cult was purified of foreign elements
  - b. Local shrines purged of foreign elements. Centralized worship in Jerusalem
  - c. May have extended into the Northern Kingdom (D's exaggeration?)
  - d. Declaration of independence from Assyria and threw off most of its culture

### **Fall of Judah**

Assyria waned; Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar, conquered Assyria. Sons of Josiah able to withstand N influence. 597 BCE Neb. Mobilized and plunder Jerusalem and deported leading citizens. 588 BCE- Zedekiah revolted and N lay siege to Jerusalem for two years. Further deportations. Jerusalem falls in 587 BCE marks beginning of 55 year exile. Not a major world event. Hebrew kingdoms vanished. Rise of the prophets after a deepening of Hebrew religious ideals.

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## **Supplementary Material**

### **Collins Outline:**

#### The Division of the Kingdom

“D” explanation of the division of the Kingdom is placed on the lips of a prophet, Ahiljah the Shilonite. 1 Kings 11:29 – 31

Prophets = Concern for worship of other gods

Tribes broke away = Oppressive forced labor of Solomon

Northern tribes = regard Judah as a foreign body

Jeroboam builds Shechem as northern capital. “D” concerned about the 2 shrines he built and not sympathetic. A David King would tear it down.

“D” does not like the Northern Kings and moves through them rapidly and is heavy handed toward view of kings.

Narratives of 1 Kings 17 – 22 and 2 Kings 1- 9 stand out from the listing of kings and tell stories of prophets:

- Micaiah ben Imlah 1 Kings 22 – death of King Ahab, Israel and Judah kings getting along. King of Israel consults with 400 prophets – Micaiah does not agree with king. Reports on vision of throne of God. He says king will be defeated, imprisoned, and turns out to be right.
- Elijah
  - Linked with stories of Elisha
    - Miracle of woman with oil
    - Raises a child from dead
  - Speaker against Baal
  - Champion of social justice ( Elisha is a wonder worker) 1 Kings 17
  - Contest between God and Baal. Fire. Slaughters all Baal prophets and out runs king’s chariots.
  - His conflict with Ahab in 1 Kings 21 set tone of prophets being a thorn for kings.
  - Taken to heaven in a fiery chariot in 2 King 2
- Elisha
  - Inherits a double portion of Elijah’s spirit
  - Miracles and wonders
    - Boys tease him and they are mauled by bear
    - Floating ax in water
    - Helps in defeating enemies

- Divine action with these prophets are defined with supernatural power.
- Jehu coup in 2 King 9 – blood thirsty – testifies to the hatred of Jezebel

#### End of the Kingdom of Israel

- A lot of turn over of kings, many assassinated
- Assyrians came in, Israel kings paid tribute then A. takes over in 722 when Samaria is destroyed.
- “D” says it happens because of sin against God by promoting sacrifice worship outside of Jerusalem.

#### End of the Kingdom of Judah

- Hezekiah – “D” liked him, carried out reform similar to Josiah
  - Jerusalem expanded
  - Tried to suppress the worship of foreign Gods
  - Jerusalem escaped destruction through paying heavy tribute
  - Consults Isaiah, angel of Lord strikes down the Assyrians
  - Eventually Assyrians brought Jerusalem to its knees
- Manasseh takes over for 55 years
  - Evil in the sight of God and “D” and so God resolves to destroy Jerusalem
- Josiah reforms
  - Did great things to reform Judaism but was short lived.
  - Because he is good he is spared the destruction of Jerusalem
  - Babylonians under hand of God delivers Judah to exile until 37 years later Jehoiachin was released from prison.

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